



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/C: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01



1 9 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 2 B / C

Interpretation A An interpretation of the Elizabethan Court.

Adapted from an article by Penry Williams, in 'History Review', 1998.

The Court was a home for monarch and courtiers, the centre of government and a place to show off. It was a market place for patronage, combining formal ceremony with a scramble for status, influence and profit. It was also a place of culture and entertainment. For Elizabeth, the Court was where she was on display, distributed patronage and kept contact with the great families of the kingdom. For most of her reign Elizabeth skilfully handled the competing noble groups while carrying out her policy and government. Tensions, however, became more obvious later on when royal control was challenged.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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